

first senator to realize Walter's potential. Hired as a data entry operator, Walter started off on his long journey of service to his home State of Michigan and eventually the States of Texas and Arkansas. In 1966, Walter continued working for the State of Michigan by joining the staff of Senator Robert Griffin and spent 13 years there. By now Walter was developing a reputation for his expertise as mailroom manager. In 1979 Senator John Tower from Texas heard about Walter and offered him his next job. He continued this pattern of invaluable service to the State of Texas by going to work for Senator Lloyd Bentsen in 1984. When Bob Krueger filled Lloyd Bentsen's seat in 1992, Walter was wisely kept on staff.

In 1993, I was fortunate enough to finally get Walter Droskie on my staff. We had been hoping to catch him between Senators for a long time—he was always in demand. Walter has brought so much to my office. The mailroom has never run smoother, and Walter's wonderful disposition has won him the friendship of everyone on my staff—past and present. As he retires this year, I hope Walter Droskie realizes how much he has contributed not only to my office, but all the offices he has worked for during these past 35 years. His dedication and tireless hard work have won him the respect and gratitude of all he has known. I wish him the best during his retirement. The U.S. Senate will surely miss the many contributions of this fine man.

COMMENDING CHARLES N. QUIGLEY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Charles N. Quigley, who participated in CIVITAS at Bosnia-Herzegovina, an intensive program from July 17–27, 1996, to train local teachers in education for democracy. Mr. Quigley was part of a team of 18 American educators and 15 teachers from the Council of Europe who were assigned to key cities throughout the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The summer training program was developed by the Center for Civic Education as part of a major education initiative in Bosnia-Herzegovina supported by the United States Information Agency and the United States Department of Education. The goals of the program are to help prepare students and their communities to participate in elections and other aspects of political life in emerging democracies. Achieving this goal will contribute to the reconstitution of a sense of community, cooperation, tolerance, and support for democracy and human rights in war torn areas.

I am also pleased to announce that the curricular materials used for the program in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been adapted from the "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution" and the "We the People . . . Project Citizen" programs, as well as other

programs supported by the Congress which are used in schools throughout the United States. Initial reports evaluating the summer program indicate the materials and teaching methods were enthusiastically received and can be adapted for use in classrooms throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Quigley is the executive director of the Center for Civic Education which is located in Calabasas, CA. Mr. Quigley has traveled on four different occasions to Bosnia-Herzegovina to promote education for democracy efforts in the schools of that country.

Mr. President, I wish to commend Charles Quigley for his dedication and commitment during the CIVITAS at Bosnia-Herzegovina summer training program. His work is helping to achieve the overall objective of building support for democracy on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, before the end of the 104th Congress, I wanted to take a moment to pay tribute to Senator PAUL SIMON of Illinois, who is retiring this year. PAUL SIMON is quite simply one of the most respected and honorable Members of the U.S. Senate.

Senator SIMON has been a dedicated public servant for more than 40 years. He has served in the Illinois House and Senate, as Lieutenant Governor of the State of Illinois, and in the U.S. House and Senate.

Even as he tirelessly served in public office, PAUL SIMON also found ways to pursue his second career—that of a distinguished and thoughtful writer. A former newspaperman, SIMON has written numerous books on our political process and democratic values. He still types his manuscripts out on an old manual typewriter.

Senator SIMON's top legislative priority for years has been passage of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. PAUL SIMON understands that the greatest threat to future generations is the Federal budget deficit and our enormous national debt. Eliminating our budget deficit is the most important thing we can do for our Nation and PAUL SIMON pursued this goal with steadfast tenacity.

I have had the privilege of serving with Senator SIMON on the Budget Committee since 1987. PAUL SIMON will be most remembered there for his efforts to restore equity between defense and nondefense spending. Senator SIMON and I also joined together last year in offering an alternative budget reconciliation measure. I was proud of that effort.

PAUL SIMON will also be remembered as a staunch supporter of education and an advocate for people with disabilities. While serving in the Illinois Legislature, he was among the first to introduce legislation to provide public education for children with disabilities. Years later he was one of the

original sponsors of Public Law 94-142, the first Federal law to ensure that all children with disabilities would receive free and appropriate public education. This landmark legislation was signed in 1975.

Because of SIMON's devotion and perseverance, Congress passed the National Literacy Act, to create literacy centers and to authorize funding for adult education and literacy programs. SIMON also championed the direct college loan program, originally passed in 1991 and expanded in 1993, which made fundamental changes in our Nation's student loan program.

Although some may remember SIMON for his bowties, I will always remember his simple honesty, integrity, and character. PAUL SIMON not only remembered the bipartisanship and comity that used to be standard operating procedure in the Senate, but he continued to serve in that tradition, even as Congress changed around him.

I know Senator SIMON will be happy to return to his home in southern Illinois. He'll be heading up the Simon Public Policy Institute at southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He'll have more time for his grandchildren, more time to write. But he'll be missed in the U.S. Senate, by the people he represented and by those who knew him.

CUTTING TAXES AND BALANCING THE BUDGET—THE POSSIBLE DREAM

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, as the Presidential campaign heats up, it is clear that a central issue will be economic growth. Despite recent positive economic news, the long-term outlook is not good. Growth is slow and family incomes are down. At the same time, the tax burden on Americans is at an all-time high, squeezing families while discouraging savings and investment.

In response to this disturbing trend, Bob Dole has proposed an aggressive plan to both cut taxes and balance the budget by the year 2002. The goal of the plan is to spur economic growth by reducing both the size and tax burden of the Federal Government. Its centerpiece is a 15-percent, across-the-board income-tax cut designed to lower taxes on families and small businesses while spurring job creation and investment. The Dole plan would also provide families with a \$500 per child tax credit, improved IRA's, and lower taxes on capital gains. For a typical family earning \$30,000, his plan would allow them to keep an additional \$1,261 per year, enough to pay tuition to a private school, move into a better neighborhood, or save for an early retirement.

People like the idea of a tax cut, but they wonder how it can be done without increasing the Federal budget deficit or gutting essential Federal programs. In a recent radio address, President Clinton sounded that theme, attacking Bob Dole's plan by arguing that the tax cut is too big and asserting that Dole has failed to explain how